

beginner in biology. The book can be recommended to both students in elementary biology and laymen. F. E. B.

Manual of Vital Function Testing Methods and Their Interpretation. By Wilfred M. Barton, M. D. Second revised and enlarged edition. Boston: Richard G. Badger. 1917. Price \$1.50.

In this valuable little compilation the author aims to present the more recent functional methods for studying the more important organs—the liver, kidneys, heart, pancreas and ductless glands. The wide interest which clinicians are now taking in the study of the functional pathology of disease, as opposed to the control of clinical work by the method of pathological anatomy, gives such a work as this more than a timely interest. The author has attempted to describe most of the important tests presented in modern medical literature, but it is fair to say that not all of the numerous functional tests described in medical periodicals and summarized in this book have proven of real value. Indeed, only a few have stood the test of time. The value of the work would have been materially enhanced had the author better sifted his material and, of the numerous methods described, laid stress upon those alone which have proved of real value in clinical diagnosis.

S. H. H.

Clinical Diagnosis. A Manual of Laboratory Methods. By James Campbell Todd, M. D., Professor of Pathology, University of Colorado. Fourth edition, revised and reset. 12 mo. of 687 pages with 232 text illustrations and 12 colored plates. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1918. Cloth, \$3.00 net.

Todd's laboratory manual, now in its fourth revision, is a book especially intended for students' and physicians' laboratory use, and to this end meets all requirements. It is not a comprehensive laboratory text-book. The author has selected usually the best and simplest methods and these are presented in sufficient detail to be made use of by those who have not had any considerable degree of laboratory training. Refinements of older tests are frequently noted and certain newer tests, such as the concentration method for malarial parasite, urobilin determination and the mastic spinal fluid test are included. The introductory chapter on the use of the microscope is to be especially commended. The physician who interests himself in laboratory procedures will find this little volume of considerable assistance.

E. A. V.

Dispensaries: Their Management and Development. By Michael M. Davis, Jr., and Andrew R. Warner. New York: Macmillan Company.

This book is a notable contribution to the modern literature of medicine and sociology. The subject is treated with thoroughness and broadness, and in a style which makes it accessible not only to the medically-trained man but to every person who seeks information in the far-reaching changes which are taking place at present in the medical profession the world over. The "Dispensary" is discussed in this book since its early incipency in England until its latest and fullest development in this country. Nothing is lacking in this volume: The aim and purpose of the dispensary is discussed; admirable building plans skilfully presented; detailed suggestions in regard to the organization and conduct of the clinic elaborately dealt with, and the establishment and maintenance of a social-service department in conjunction with the clinic fully explained. It is a book worth while reading in these days of social reconstruction.

A. G.

Medical Clinics of Chicago. Volume 2, Number 1 (July, 1918). Octavo of 311 pages, 57 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saun-

ders Company, 1918. Published bi-monthly.

Price per year: Paper, \$10.00; Cloth, \$14.00.

Contents.—Frank S. Meara: Hyperpiesia of Clifford Allbutt. William H. Park: Practical immunization against diphtheria. Frederick Tilney: Wilson's disease. W. L. Niles: Subacute non-tubercular pulmonary infection. C. B. Slade: Relation of pulmonary tuberculosis to general practice. E. Libman: Clinical features of subacute streptococcus endocarditis in the bacterial stage. Thos. F. Reilly: Minor and misleading early symptoms of disease of heart and circulation. R. G. Snyder: Discussion of three unusual cases of aneurysm of thoracic aorta. W. J. Heimann: Relation of internal disturbances to dermatologic conditions. M. H. Bass: Cutaneous manifestations of acute rheumatic fever in childhood. O. M. Schloss: Acetone body acidosis in children. J. B. Neal: Epidemic meningitis. B. B. Crohn: Clinical conditions characterized by obstructive jaundice. S. P. Goodhart: Primary myopathies and their endocrine relationship. R. Ottenberg: Survey of hemorrhagic diseases with especial reference to blood findings.

Mammalian Dentition. By T. Wingate Todd. 290 p. 100 illustrations. St. Louis: Mosby. 1918. Price, \$3.00.

The author covers the salient features of mammalian odontologic evolution in a remarkably concise and pleasingly lucid style. He refers to his book, in the preface, as "a simple introduction to the study of teeth," but the volume is by no means an elementary one. The student should have a knowledge of palaeontology and vertebrate anatomy in order to read the work understandingly. Professor Todd displays a wide knowledge of his subject; in fact, his capacity for concise expression indicates extensive research and comprehensive understanding. The arrangement of the book is very satisfactory. A general introduction is followed by a consideration of mammalian genesis. The early study of the marsupialia as presenting adaptations to variations in dietary habits within a single order, is a great help to the evolutionary concept. The insectivores and primates are next considered; especially as leading up to Homo, in whom, naturally, our interest centers. The other orders such as carnivore, ungulate, etc., follow. Considerable attention is given the deciduous dentition, which is an important feature, as the milk teeth are undoubtedly of great evolutionary significance. Professor Todd has presented interesting material for thought in his remarks concerning the premolar analogy theory, and the specialization of the African, etc. I regret that the pressure of other duties has not permitted me the opportunity to give this work the close study and consideration that it merits, but I have added the volume to my library and look forward to the time when I can become more closely acquainted with it. It is well written, copiously illustrated, with excellent photographs and of an interesting style. It will be of particular interest to dentists.

F. V. S.

Correspondence

PHYSICIANS IN INDUSTRIAL PRACTICE.

Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 23, 1918.

To the Editor:—Will you kindly call attention in the next issue of your journal to the fact that Dr. Francis D. Patterson, Chief, Division of Industrial Hygiene and Engineering, Department of Labor and Industry, Harrisburg, Pa., is desirous of obtaining a complete list of all physicians engaged in the practice of industrial medicine?

It has been the practice of this department to hold semi-annual conferences of industrial physicians and surgeons for several years. These con-

ferences are well attended, and a great deal of valuable matter is presented in the discussions. In order to reach all physicians interested it is desirable to have their names upon our mailing list. The next conference will be held early in 1919, and it is, therefore, essential that the names and addresses of all industrial physicians and surgeons be in my hands as soon as possible after January 1st.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANCIS D. PATTERSON,

Chief, Division of Hygiene, Department of Labor and Industry, Bureau of Inspection, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

DISPOSAL OF EXCRETA ON RAILROADS.

Richmond, Cal., Dec. 23, 1918.

To the Editor:—In the last number of the State Journal, I was very much pleased and interested in an editorial you have there regarding the disposal of excreta on railroad coaches.

That is a subject that interested me just about ten years ago, as shown by the enclosed patent I got out at that time just for that very purpose, the disposal of car excreta and also the further benefit of being able to use the toilet while the car is within the city limits of any city, for as you know, now, whenever the car is within a city, the toilet door is locked and no matter how badly a man, woman or child may need a toilet, they are not permitted to enter.

I showed the plan to the Pullman people and several others interested and they all considered it a very valuable invention, but there was no law in force regarding the disposal of excreta from trains and they will not install anything unless they have to, so I have just waited for the time when the people would wake up to the fact that something should be done to protect people from that exposure and I am very glad that you took it up and hope that it will bear some fruit.

Very truly yours,

CHAS. R. BLAKE, M. D.,
Commissioner of Health.

County Societies

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY.

The Contra Costa County Medical Society held its regular annual meeting and banquet at the Hotel Oakland on the evening of December 14, 1918. The officers elected to serve the Society for 1919 were: Dr. W. E. Cunningham of Richmond, President; Dr. G. M. O'Malley of Crockett, Vice-President; Dr. P. C. Campbell of Richmond, Secretary-Treasurer; Dr. P. C. Campbell of Richmond, County Associate Editor.

Those present were: Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Cunningham, Dr. and Mrs. C. R. Leech, Dr. and Mrs. G. M. O'Malley, Dr. and Mrs. Clyde T. Wetmore, Dr. and Mrs. P. C. Campbell, Drs. E. E. Johnson and H. L. Carpenter, Mrs. Jennie Sharpoph, Mr. Connors.

After the banquet was served the party repaired to the Orpheum Theater where a most delightful and entertaining evening was spent.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY.

December 5th, 1918. Meeting of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.

The regular meeting was held at the usual time and place with Dr. Duffield presiding.

The program consisted of an informal Symposium on some phases of Influenza Epidemic.

Dr. Duffield opened by saying that we had the longest vacation in the history of the society. We had the largest state meeting, and we had war meetings. It is six months since we met the last

time. In September the members were all very busy about the war, then came the epidemic and an unofficial request by the health officer, Dr. Powers, to meet at the Normal Center. We tried to reach every one by phone and the meeting was fairly well attended.

Dr. Luther M. Powers spoke on "Some Observations and Experiences of the Health Commission."

Dr. Powers said:

"The disease was brought from Arizona, New Mexico and other eastern points to the various hotels and other places in the city of Los Angeles, during the latter part of September and the first of October; and after the 15th of September a training ship from San Francisco came into San Pedro harbor with a complement of about 700, 400 of whom were suffering from influenza. Two hundred were given shore leave and visited the Naval Training Station at San Pedro, infecting the same. Also many men working in the shipyards became infected, who lived in the city of Los Angeles.

After a consultation with the Mayor a citizens' advisory committee was called on Oct. 10th and from that committee the Mayor selected seven members as advisory to the Health Commissioner.

The schools, theaters, moving picture shows, churches, etc., were closed down on the 11th. The question of closing the schools was brought up in the Advisory Committee, and as our schools were not sufficiently inspected we thought best to close the public schools.

The peak of the disease was reached October 30th.

The question of making it mandatory or compulsory to wear masks was discussed, and because of so much opposition it was thought best not to undertake making the arrest of so many people because of the uncertain value of the wearing of the mask at that time. It was thought not commensurate with the amount of possible good which might result therefrom.

The Health Commissioner telegraphed the Rockefeller Institute, Dr. W. H. Parks, A. C. Rosenau, and others in regards to the value of vaccine, and was informed on every occasion that it was only experimental. We established three stations in the city, one at the Health Office, one in Boyle Heights, and one at the University, for free administration of vaccine; and also furnished any physician who was willing to give vaccine, a supply of the Leary and the Cutter, and also after receiving it, the Rosenau. The Leary vaccine was stopped after a short time because it was learned that it had proven of no value. We found these vaccines did no harm."

Dr. George L. Cole, chairman of the medical advisory board of the Health Commissioner, gave a paper entitled "Some Observations from the Work of the Medical Advisory Board." This will appear in the March issue of the Journal.

Other papers and discussion followed.

The Los Angeles County Medical Association.

Met in the Auditorium of the Normal Hill Center, Monday, Dec. 23 at 8 P. M.

Dr. Etienne Burnet, attaché of the Medical Staff of the French Army and a member of a Scientific Mission sent by the French Government to visit the larger Universities of the United States, was introduced by Lucien N. Brunswig to Dr. McArthur, the chairman, and to members of the society.

Dr. McArthur in well chosen remarks of welcome made every one feel at home by his kindly humor and wit. He also referred to the chief speaker as the greatest pupil of Louis Pasteur and the president of the Pasteur Institute. Dr.